

## REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 13-16 are pending in the application, with Claim 13 being the only independent claim. Claim 15 has been amended. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, Claims 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,114,020 (Misuda et al.) as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 6,203,899 (Hirose et al.), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,492,005 B1 (Ohbayashi et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 5,175,133 (Smith et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention as recited in Claim 13 is directed to a process for producing a recording medium for ink-jet recording having an ink-receiving layer including a particulate material on a base material. The process includes the steps of grinding aluminum oxide particles of the  $\gamma$ -crystal structure and removing a coarse particle component by a separation treatment such that the average particle diameter of the aluminum oxide particles of the  $\gamma$ -crystal structure is at least 0.21  $\mu\text{m}$  and at most 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$ , and at least 90% of all particles of the aluminum oxide particles of the  $\gamma$ -crystal structure have a particle diameter of at most 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$ , and applying onto the base material the aluminum oxide particles of the  $\gamma$ -crystal structure subjected to the treatment of removing the coarse particle component with a binder. At least 90% by weight of the particulate

material is the aluminum oxide particles of the  $\gamma$ -crystal structure, and the surface of the ink-receiving layer constitutes an outer surface of the recording medium.

Applicants submit that the cited art fails to teach or suggest many features of Applicants' claimed invention.

Misuda et al. is directed to a recording medium having a base material and a porous surface layer containing particles of a thermoplastic resin. Misuda et al. discloses that underlying the porous surface layer may be an ink-receiving layer. The ink-receiving layer may include an alumina hydrate having a pseudoboehmite structure. Applicants note that the alumina hydrate disclosed in Misuda et al. is distinguishable from the aluminum oxide of the present invention in that the alumina hydrate disclosed in Misuda et al. has a formula of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , whereas the aluminum oxide particles of the  $\gamma$ -crystal structure of the present invention have the formula  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ . Accordingly, Applicants submit that Misuda et al. fails to teach or suggest at least the use aluminum oxide particles of the  $\gamma$ -crystal structure, as recited in Claim 13.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Misuda et al. discloses that Alumina Sol 520, a product of Nissan Chemical Industries, Ltd., is a suitable alumina sol. The Office Action references Table 4 of Hirose et al. as evidence that the Alumina Sol 520 has a  $\gamma$ -crystal structure. Applicant's again submit, however, that the indication in Table 4 of Hirose et al. is incorrect. The Nissan Chemical Industries' Alumina Sol product literature submitted with the November 14, 2005 Response indicates that the Alumina Sol 520 has a boehmite structure rather than a  $\gamma$ -crystal structure. Applicants note the product literature indicates that the Alumina Sol 520 has a particle size of 10-20  $\mu\text{m}$ . JPA 9-066663, which corresponds to Hirose et al., indicates that the

Alumina Sol 520 in Table 4 has a particle size of 10-20 nm. This is further evidence that the Alumina Sol of the product literature is the same Alumina Sol discussed in Hirose et al., and is, thus, a further indication that the reference in Table 4 of Hirose et al. is incorrect and that the Alumina Sol 520 has a boehmite structure rather than the  $\gamma$ -crystal structure, as recited in Claim 13.

Smith et al. was cited for disclosing that centrifugation and filtration are dewatering processes and is not understood to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Misuda et al. Ohbayashi et al. was cited for disclosing a recording medium having an outer layer that is an ink absorbing layer, and is not understood to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Misuda et al.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest many features of Applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection.

Applicants submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 13. Dependent Claims 14-16 are also patentable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in Claim 13. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment After Final be entered. This Amendment was not presented earlier as it was earnestly believed that the claims on file would be found allowable. Given the Examiner's familiarity with the application, Applicants believe that a full understanding and consideration of this Amendment would not require undue time or effort by the Examiner. Moreover, Applicants submit that the

application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is believed to be appropriate and such entry is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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